

REMARKS

Claims 14-28 and 32 are pending in this application. Claims 14-18 and 32 are allowed. By this Amendment, allowable claims 19 and 24 are rewritten to be in independent form, claim 16 is amended for clarity, and claims 1-13, 29-31 and 33-36 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments only rewrite allowable claims to be in independent form, amend a dependent claim for clarity, and cancel the rejected claims; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Office Action's allowance of claims 14-18 and 32. Applicant also appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 19-28, 33 and 34 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, claims 19 and 24 are rewritten to be in independent form including all of the features of base claim 1. Thus, independent claims 19 and 24 and dependent claims 20-23 and 25-28 are allowable.

II. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection is Moot

The Office Action rejects claims 1-13, 29-31, 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tetsuo, JP-A-10-268442, in view of Sugiyama et al. (Sugiyama), U.S. Patent Application

Publication No. 2002/0030321 A1. The rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DRK/sxl

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 14, 2008

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